

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 117065 TOSEC 040400
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY PM/DCA:MLBRECKON:MEM
APPROVED BY PM:RBARTHOLOMEW
S/S-O:SSTEINER

-----202349Z 114705 /70
O 202258Z MAY 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 117065 TOSEC 040400

STADIS
EXDIS - GELB ONLY FROM BARTHOLOMEW

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: INDIAN OCEAN WORKING GROUP

1. WE ARE AT THE POINT WHERE WE NEED TO PIN DOWN JUNE 15
AS THE DATE FOR THE MOSCOW INDIAN OCEAN WORKING GROUP WITH
THE SOVIETS, IN ORDER TO START BOTH SUBSTANTIVE AND
ADMINISTRATIVE PREPARATION WITH THE RUSSIANS. THE SOVIET
EMBASSY HERE IS APPARENTLY SOMEWHAT CONFUSED ABOUT WHERE
THINGS STAND, AND CALLED ACDA LAST WEEK TO ASK WHO WOULD
BE ON THE US DELEGATION. THEY APPEARED TO ASSUME THE
MEETING WOULD BE SOMETIME DURING JUNE, BUT GAVE NO DATE.
(ACDA TOLD THEM THEY HAD NO INFORMATION.)

2. IN DECIDING ON WHETHER OR NOT TO PIN THE JUNE 15 DATE
DOWN WITH THE SOVIETS, THE KEY QUESTION IS WHETHER WE NEED
TO WAIT UNTIL THE PRINCIPALS HAVE BEFORE THEM THE
SUBSTANTIVE POSITION PAPERS FOR THE WORKING GROUP

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MEETING.

3. WE HAVE GONE THROUGH ONE ITERATION OF THESE PAPERS,
AND LYNN DAVIS, JOHN NEWHOUSE, AND THE OTHER WORKING
GROUP MEMBERS WILL MEET WITH ME NEXT TUESDAY TO LOOK AT
REVISED DRAFTS OF THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THEM, COVERING

DEFINITION OF THE AREA, DEFINITION AND MEASUREMENT OF NAVAL PRESENCE, FACILITIES, AND GROUND-BASED AIRCRAFT. THERE ARE MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ACDA AND THE NAVY ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, BUT THE PROCESS IS ISOLATING AND CLARIFYING THESE AS A MEANS OF GETTING THE DECISIONS WE NEED. I AM NOT SURE WHETHER ANOTHER SCC WILL BE NEEDED. IF NOT, THE PAPERS WE ARE PREPARING NOW WILL HAVE TO BE CLEARED AT THE LEVEL OF PRINCIPALS BEFORE THE MOSCOW MEETING. THEY COULD BE READY BY THE END OF NEXT WEEK.

4. ONE POINT THAT WILL HELP US marginally IN GAUGING SOVIET INTENTIONS WILL BE COMPOSITION OF THEIR DELEGATION. EXCHANGING LISTS EARLY WILL THUS BE IMPORTANT AS WE MAKE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRINCIPALS.

5. IN LIGHT OF THE UNAVAILABILITY OF SOME ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FROM EMBASSY MOSCOW, AND THE NEED TO SCHEDULE INTERPRETERS AND OTHER LOGISTICS WELL IN ADVANCE, WE NEED TO BEGIN NOW IF JUNE 15 IS TO BE THE OPENING DATE.

6. MY RECOMMENDATION IS THAT WE NOW CALL IN BESSMERTNYKH OR ANOTHER RESPONSIBLE SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER AND FORMALLY PROPOSE THAT BOTH SIDES AGREE ON JUNE 15. WE WOULD TELL HIM AT THE SAME TIME THAT WE WOULD BE SHORTLY GIVING HIM PROPOSALS ON PROCEDURES, AGENDA, AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, CLEAR THIS FIRST WITH NSC, DOD, AND ACDA, AND LET EMBASSY MOSCOW KNOW WHERE WE STAND IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE CHANGES FOR CONFUSION.

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7. YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK THIS OUT WITH THE SECRETARY. WE WILL WAIT TO HEAR FROM YOU BEFORE MOVING.

8. IN EVENT YOU ARE UNABLE TO GET THIS TO THE SECRETARY, I PROPOSE TO SEND HIM A MEMORANDUM ALONG LINES PARALLEL TO THE ABOVE ON MONDAY UPON HIS RETURN.
CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE117065
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MLBRECKON:MEM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770180-1086
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770533/aaaabcie.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 32fac58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2426826
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIAN OCEAN WORKING GROUP
TAGS: PARM, US, UR, XO
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/32fac58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009